

Message Text

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ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 /007 W
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P 271616Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7321

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1531

E O : NA

TAGS: AFSP, IV

SUBJ: S AND E ALLOTMENT

REF: STATE 033113

1. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S S AND E FUNDS HAVE BEEN REAPPORTIONED AFTER CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE APPROVAL. IT WOULD APPEAR TO US, THEREFORE, THAT AF'S SHARE HAS BEEN CUT IN FAVOR OF SOME OTHER BUREAU OR BUREAUS.

2. IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS (FROM INFORMATION COPIES TO ABIDJAN OF MESSAGES ON ALLOTMENTS TO OTHER WEST AFRICAN POSTS) THAT THE BUREAU HAS DECIDED TO PASS ON THE CUT "ACROSS THE BOARD" AS AN EIGHT PERCENT CUT FOR EACH POST WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO SIZE OR ACTIVITY. UNFORTUNATELY AN EIGHT PERCENT CUT DOES NOT FALL EQUALLY ON ALL POSTS. THE ABIDJAN PROGRAM AND SHARED ALLOTMENTS ARE APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT UNDER THE POST'S MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED.

3. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

A. ABIDJAN HAS GROWN BY ELEVEN AMERICAN POSITIONS SINCE JULY 1, 1973 (SEVEN IN REDSO).

B. ABIDJAN HAS GROWN BY TEN LOCAL POSITIONS SINCE JULY 1, 1973.

C. ABIDJAN IS SCHEDULED TO GROW BY SIX MORE, AND POSSIBLY EIGHT MORE, AMERICAN POSITIONS BY JUNE 30, 1974 (I.E., RSO, TSO, SEABEE, MARINE, RSO SECRETARY, AND RBFO OFFICER FOR CERTAIN, AND POSSIBLY A RMO AND NURSE).

D. ABIDJAN'S SAS BUDGET DOES NOT COME FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALONE. THE PARTICIPATING AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SIGNED

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OFF ON THE SAS GOING RATE AND ON THE FOUR SAS INCREASE/DECREASE

REQUESTS WE HAVE MADE SINCE JULY 1, 1973. THEY EXPECT SERVICES FOR THE FUNDS THEY APPROVED AND ARE PRESSING FOR THESE SERVICES. E. THE DOLLAR MAY HAVE STRENGTHENED ON THE EUROPEAN MARKET, BUT WHEN WE PAID OUR CHANCERY RENT IN JULY 1973, THIS ONE RENTAL PAYMENT ALONE COST US \$49,000 MORE THAN WE EXPECTED DUE TO THE THEN WEAKNESS OF THE DOLLAR. THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DOLLAR DOES NOT COVER OUR FIRST FIVE MONTHS DEVALUATION LOSSES AND CONTINUAL INCREASE ON COSTS OF ALL LOCALLY PROCURED SUPPLIES AND SERVICES. F. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST RAISED LOCAL SALARIES BY EIGHT TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT BY DECREES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 1973 (SMIG). IT RAISED MINIMUM SALARIES BY ANOTHER TWENTY PERCENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 1974 (ABIDJAN 7211). THESE INCREASES ARE THE TRUE BAROMETER OF COL INFLATION IN IVORY COAST. G. THE GOIC RAISED THE PRICE OF DUTY-FREE GASOLINE TO CFA 61.9 PER LITER JANUARY 30, 1974 (APPROX. \$1.00 PER GALLON).

4. ABIDJAN IS A BOOMING BUSTLING POST WITH AMERICAN VISITORS BY THE DOZEN (AND AT TIMES BY THE HUNDREDS) AND MISSING OFFICERS DEPARTING AND ARRIVING (FOR SERVICES TO OTHER MISSIONS) EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. THIS MISSION IS RENDERING SERVICES NOT ONLY FOR OFFICERS ACCREDITED TO THE GOIC BUT TO EIGHTEEN OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

5. WE ACCEPT THE FACT THAT CUTS HAVE TO BE MADE. FORTUNATELY ABIDJAN INSTIGATED ITS OWN CONSERVATION PLAN SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF ALLOTMENT ADVICES, BUT THERE MUST BE SOME CONSI-

DERATION FOR CHANGED CURCUMSTANCES AT INDIVIDUAL POSTS. ANY REDUCTION IN FUNDS MUST BE MADE FROM ABIDJAN'S PRESENT STRENGTH AND OUR PRESENT CALCULATION OF OPERATING COSTS, NOT FROM OUR FIELD BUDGET SUBMISSION OF MAY 30, 1973. WE ARE EXAMINING EVERY POSSIBILITY FOR MAKING ECONOMIC, INCLUDING AN AUSTERITY PROGRAM

ON USE OF UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION. THERE IS HOWEVER NO WAY WE CAN MAKE OUR PRESENTLY ALLOCATED FUNDS COVER OUR MINIMAL OPERATING NEEDS.

6. TO BE PRECISE: THIRD QUARTER:
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A. ON PROGRAM FUNDS WE THINK WE CAN GET THROUGH THE THIRD QUARTER (EVEN THOUGH IT INCLUDES A CHANGE OF AMBASSADORS) ON

THE \$6,000 REMAINING UNSPENT IN OUR THIRD QUARTER ALLOTMENT. (THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BECAUSE NO PROGRAMMED R AND R WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE THIRD QUARTER.)

B. ON SAS WE WILL NEED \$66,000 TO MEET OUR FIXED COSTS AND REASONABLE VARIABLE COSTS FOR THIS 81-MAN MISSION, 33 OF WHOM

ARE REGIONAL AND, ACCORDING TO OUR SAS AGREEMENT, FUNDED IN MANY RESPECTS FROM OUR SHARED ALLOTMENT.

7. FOURTH QUARTER:

A. ON PROGRAM WE WILL NEED \$36,000 TO MEET OUR FIXED REPEAT FIXED COSTS, PAY OUR LOCAL SALARY INCREASES, AND PERFORM A MINIMUM OF TRAVEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

B. ON SAS WE WILL NEED \$100,000 TO COVER OUR FIXED COSTS, (INCLUDING SOME \$66,000 OF ABSORBED COSTS FROM THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER) AND TO PROVIDE THE AGREED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WHICH THE OTHER AGENCIES PARTIALLY FUND AND FOR WHICH THEY HAVE SIGNED INCREASE STATEMENT.

8. THE ABOVE DOES NOT INCLUDE COSTS FOR ANY SECURITY PERSONNEL NOT PRESENTLY ON BOARD. (IT DOES INCLUDE COSTS FOR THE ONE RBFO OFFICER ENROUTE TO ABIDJAN.) IF THE DEPARTMENT SENDS ANY ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO THIS POST IT MUST FUND THEM (ABIDJAN 7192 AND 7260).

9. SUMMARY: THE POST HAS PRESENTED AND JUSTIFIED FOUR SAS AND ONE PROGRAM INCREASE/DECREASE REQUESTS AMOUNTING TO \$434,105. IN ORDER TO FULFILL OUR MISSION, AND PROVIDE THE SERVICES REQUESTED BY SAS PARTICIPANTS, ABIDJAN MUST HAVE AN INCREASE IN SHARED ALLOTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$166,000 FOR BALANCE FY-74. THIS AMOUNT DOES NOT, REPEAT NOT, INCLUDE COSTS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL FOR PROGRAM ALLOTMENT IS \$36,000 FOR BALANCE FY-74. THE ABOVE AMOUNTS DO NOT INCLUDE ANY FRILLS NOR ITEMS TO BE FUNDED FROM THE SECURITY PACKAGE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT THE PEOPLE TO POST AND AUTHORIZED THE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL LOCAL PERSONNEL. IF THEY CANNOT BE SUPPORTED AND PAID, THEN WE AND THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES MUST START REVERSING THE PROCESS.

10. WE HAVE STATED OUR CASE PLAINLY AND SOMEWHAT STRONGLY, BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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AS THE DEPARTING AMBASSADOR, I CONSIDER THAT I OWED IT TO MY SUCCESSOR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA01531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974027/aaaaagac.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 033113
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: S AND E ALLOTMENT
TAGS: AFSP, IV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005